**Pilgrim and spiritual Tourism in Andhra Pradesh**

1482. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are promoting pilgrim and spiritual tourism in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): fa) and (b) Promotion and development of tourism including pilgrim and spiritual tourism in the State are undertaken by the respective State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism promote the country as a whole inlcuding the places of pilgrim and spiritual importance in the State of Andhra Pradesh through publicity and promotional campaigns both in India and abroad.

**Rural tourism**

1483. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to start rural tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed a scheme to develop rural tourism in the country in the 10th Five Year Plan.

Under the scheme, a maximum amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh is proposed for rural tourism projects. The financial assistance will be provided for undertaking the following works:

Improvement of the surroundings of the village. This would include activities like landscaping, development of parks, fencing, compound wall etc.

Improvements to roads within the Panchayat limits. This shall not include any major road which connects the village.

Illumination in the village.

Providing for improvement in solid waste management and sewerage management, {only capital costs)

Construction of Wayside Amenities.

Procurement of equipments directly related to torusim, like Water Sports, Adventure. Sports, Eco-freindly modes of transports for moving within the Tourism zone.

Refurbishment of the Monuments.
Signages.

Reception Centres. Tourist

Accommodation.

(c) and (d) The rural tourism scheme has been introduced in the current financial year and ten projects would be identified every year for implementation in the country, during the Tenth Plan.

**Upgradation of Tourist circuits in Rajasthan**

1484. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from any foreign country or agency to develop and upgrade the various tourist circuits in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds that would be allocated towards the same; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider initiating dialogue with some foreign country or foreign agency to develop and upgrade the various tourist circuits in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India will examine such a proposal if it is received.

**Declaration of sri arunachaleswara temple as a national importance**

1485. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state: